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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,011	01/13/2006	Guang Y Fang	013869-9004-01	1294
23409	7590	10/24/2007	EXAMINER	
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP			LE, QUE TAN	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/537,011	FANG ET AL.
	Examiner Que T. Le	Art Unit 2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

This is in response to Applicants' amendment filed October 1, 2007.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The present specification fails to provide an adequate teaching/discussion regarding the movement of charged high-energetic particles to neutralize a part of the electric charge as now being claimed.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-3 and 5-21 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 7,186,986. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claimed invention, claims 1-3 and 5-21, of the present application is a mere broader version of the claimed invention, claims 1-4, of the above-identified U.S. Patent with similar intended scope. The inclusion of a selection of a known available material of amorphous selenium for the detector would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art involve routine skill in the art. The further inclusion of detailed structure of the detector and/or its operation/performances would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to provide a relatively simple, inexpensive, and/or high efficiency radiation detection system.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1, 3 and 5-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hinderer et al 7,186,986.

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Hinderer et al disclose a radiation detector system comprising a radiation source (24) with a radiation propagation axis (14); a detector assembly (40, 50, 58, 70) having a plurality of (planar vanes, rods or other shapes) sheets (42) oriented substantially along the propagation axis and spaced transversely across the axis to define a plurality of axially extending detector volumes (44) for receiving radiation and generating high-energetic electrons in the detector volumes; and detection circuit or means (claim 1) for detecting negatively and positively charged high-energetic particles (at least in columns

2-4) liberated into the detector volumes to provide for substantially independent signals.

In addition, in another embodiment, the detector includes amorphous selenium (column 7).

With respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 18, although Hinderer et al lack a clear inclusion of amorphous selenium material for the detector structure of a plurality of sheets, but amorphous selenium material has been included in another alternative embodiment of tube and wire detecting structure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hinderer et al by including amorphous selenium material in the detector volume of the detector structure of plurality sheets in order to provide a desired alternative detecting performance for the system.

With respect to claims 7 and 17, although Hinderer et al fail to specify the neutralization of electrical charge for the detector means, it would have been inherently included, however, if not, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hinderer et al accordingly in order to provide a more clear usable purposes of the system.

With respect to claims 8, 9, 12-14 and 19-21, although Hinderer et al includes a housing (column 5) for the detector system with curved shape configuration (Figures 4, 7) and/or tube and wires shape (Figure 9, 10) but lack a clear inclusion of a dielectric element with alignment means, it would have been inherently included by the

configurations as shown, however, if not, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hinderer et al accordingly in order to provide a better and clearer arrangement of the detector elements/components. The further inclusion of readout electrode layer, substrate layer and/or insulation material would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for similar reasons set forth above.

Applicant's arguments filed 10/1/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's argument, on page 12 of the remarks that the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is improper, it is noted that "double patenting may exist between an issued patent and an application filed by the same inventive entity, or by an inventive entity having a common inventor with the patent, and/or by the owner of the patent" (35 U.S.C. 121). There is at least one common inventor, Thomas R. Mackie, between the issued patent, identified above, and the present application, thus, the rejection set forth above is proper.

With respect to applicant's argument, on pages 12-14 of the remarks, that the hinderer et al reference does not disclose an imaging system for detecting negatively and positively charged high-energetic particles wherein the detector including amorphous selenium, this is found not persuasive because in fact Hinderer et al reference does disclose the claimed features as clearly discussed (with columns and Figures references) in the rejection set forth above.

Accordingly, the rejection set forth above is proper.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Que T. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2438.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Epps Georgia, can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Que T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2878